

## Parent Council

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2018

1. Apologies: Rachel (Yr 3)  
Absent: Geraldine (Yr 6)

All other members present and all classes represented.

2. Minutes of Last Meeting:  
These had already been shared with and agreed by the previous council.

3. Matters Arising:

- i. Fundraising ideas – Sarah confirmed she had not received much feedback from the wider parent community regarding ideas for future fundraisers

**Action: Representatives to post a feedback request from parents on desired fundraising events for the year.**

- ii. An overview of school events for the year have been published below the calendar on the website. Dates are inputted into the calendar a term ahead. Some dates have to wait until nearer the time as training events and externally-dictated dates sometimes come in late.

- iii. Mrs Lonie had sent out a communication for the new parent council, with two reps per class, and was very happy to see a 'full house' at the first meeting!

- iv. Mr Neill has been appointed as sports coach this year and will be setting up the daily mile or alternative physical provision across the school. He returned in September but is currently absent with a back injury. On his return, he will ensure these are in place.

4. Terms of Reference:

Mrs Lonie shared these with the representatives. An amendment was made to allow for two representatives per class.

Mrs Lonie ensured that representatives understood their role and urged them to share this with the wider parent community. Mrs Lonie confirmed that the parent council was a two-way communication between parents and school. She would use the council to consult on school matters and receive feedback; that the focus was always on school improvement for the education and welfare of pupils. Any individual/serious matters should go directly from the parent with the concern to the class teacher or to the Headteacher. The parent council representative is not a go-between for complaints. Reps should bring whole-school or class queries, ideas or feedback. Terms of reference can be found on the school's website.

5. Communication:

Mrs Lonie explained that communication was key to the success of the council and school improvement. The main way for parents to communicate with others is through the closed Facebook group page for each class. Reps were asked to set up the new groups, and agree to/invite parents to join once they have filled in the acceptable use agreement. This would ensure that parents using the platform would understand how to use it effectively. Reps will set up the group so that they can check content before publishing and will speak to any parent misusing the platform for personal issues. Reps have the right to block any parent breaking the agreement and will report this to the Headteacher. Mrs Lonie reminded the reps that not all parents use social media and would need to try to communicate in other ways too.

**Action: Mrs Lonie to send out parent sign-up letter and acceptable use agreement for all parents next week.**

6. Fundraising Group/PTA:

Sarah gave an update of events:

PTA meetings on evening of Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> Oct and morning of Friday 19<sup>th</sup> Oct (see previous PTA communication)

Calverley Spooky Cake Sale – Friday 19<sup>th</sup> Oct

Spooky Disco – Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov (Parent helpers needed)

Christmas Fair – 3.30pm on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> Nov – ideas for stalls needed, help from parents needed

Sarah explained that following a successful year in which over £8000 had been raised for a suite of laptops, the next project would be even bigger. Sarah's team and Mrs Lonie are working on a larger project of school improvement involving renovation for the HE room into a well-being suite and overhaul of the toilets. They would be working together on fundraising ideas and would appreciate parental support for this. A bid for a donation from Aviva had already been submitted. If accepted, then the allocation would be made on the basis of votes. Sarah will keep us posted!

**Actions: Parent reps to communicate dates and send out reminders before each event.**

7. School Priorities:

Mrs Lonie explained, as per the September newsletter, that this year's school priorities are:

- Improve attendance and reduce persistent absenteeism to hit the target of a whole school attendance of 96%. An EWO (Education Welfare Officer) has recently joined the school to help to tackle this and support parents in understanding the importance of attendance and punctuality.
- Ensure consistency in teaching and high expectations across the school
- Improve reading across the school. This will also help the difficult issue of spelling and would support writing too.

8. Policies:

Mrs Lonie shared the child protection and online safety policies. The behaviour policy will feature next time as it is under review by staff.

A discussion took place about the useful and informative communication sent out by Libby at the end of e-safety week. Reps were alarmed by the amount of screen time and lack of supervision shown to some children in the home. Libby pointed out that a workshop for parents previously held at the school to support parents to keep their children safe online had only been attended by 3 parents. One parent explained that a local secondary school only gave online access to pupils whose parents had attended an online safety workshop. This will be considered in future. In the meantime, the school will continue its good work to educate children in keeping safe on line at an age-appropriate level. This will feature in every computing lesson, during e-safety week and on Safer Internet Day in February. Useful information for parents can be accessed via the pupil e-safety page on the website.

**Action: Libby to ensure FS and KS1 parents received the survey results.**

9. A.O.B.

Year 3 comments:

- i. Year 3 parents reported that they enjoyed the harvest festival and seeing a lack of ear defenders, fidget items, etc, usually in place.  
This was not fully responded to in the meeting, but the response from Mrs Lonie would be:  
The use of ear defenders and other aids is totally appropriate for pupils with special educational needs. As an inclusive, mainstream school, we meet the differing needs of our pupils in ways that are deemed appropriate by specialists in the field. This year, due to high levels of anxiety amongst a small number of pupils in the school, a nurture group was put into place to support those who find the event too much. This was in agreement with their parents and was highly successful for both those pupils and those taking part in the harvest festival. The school will adopt this approach in future, where appropriate.
- ii. Year 3 parents shared a concern over inappropriate behaviour demonstrated by some pupils in the school and that this was a 'growing sight'. Mrs Lonie reassured the council that behaviour overall continued to be good across the school and is better than this time last year. However she acknowledged that there is a very small number of pupils who have a range of complex special needs which result in undesirable behaviours. Legally and morally, school strive to meet the needs of all pupils in the school. There are a number of external agencies which support those pupils, their families and the school to do this. For some of the pupils, this is a 'long game' with no quick fixes. When poor behaviour is exhibited, measures are put in place to support the child and his/her peers, with education and welfare in mind. Pupils leaving the classroom and taking time outside pose less of a distraction to their classmates than those who remain in class so use of the outside space for children to run around and let off excess steam should not

be seen as a negative. Mrs Lonie agreed that there were two pupils in the school who were currently using inappropriate language and that this was being addressed but again could not be instantly stopped. The council expressed concern over language in use on some of the games accessed by pupils at home online and by some parents on the walk to school. Mrs Lonie asked parents to report any individual parents using bad language on the way to school or on the school site as this was not acceptable. Mrs Lonie explained that the 'Good to be Green' behaviour system was no longer in place as it was deemed too negative and that staff had revisited and were updating the behaviour policy. This would be brought to parent council next time for discussion.

- iii. Parents asked what the school was doing to promote itself to the wider community. Mrs Lonie explained that a poster and leaflets had been given to each local pre-school thanks to a suggestion by a parent. She had also signed up to an advert in the appointment cards of two local medical surgeries. Mrs Lonie accepted that she needed to brush up on her social media skills and there was scope to use Twitter and other platforms to promote the school. Two parents expressed that they has skills in marketing and filming which may be useful to promote the school moving forward.

**Action: Mrs Lonie to brush up on how to use social media to promote the school and contact individual parents to create a promotional video for the website and for future fundraising bids.**

- iv. Year 3 parents expressed a concern that the gate opening in the morning was 'slipping again'. Mrs Lonie expressed that the new arrangement was working brilliantly and that parents were very helpfully leaving the playground at the bell, allowing pupils to line up perfectly and enter the school ready to learn. Mrs Lonie explained that the caretaker opened the gate at 8.45am to allow the parents in with their children. At times this was nearer 8.50am. Mrs Lonie feels a 5 minute window for the caretaker to do this seems reasonable and will communicate this to parents on the next newsletter.

Year 6 comments:

- v. Could we have a vote on having the carol concert back at St Mark's church? Mrs Lonie explained this had already been discussed and agreed with staff and the parent council. There were mixed views but overall, the school was deemed to be the more appropriate place.
- vi. Will Year 6 have bikeability this year? Mrs Lonie will confirm with Mr Neill on his return. She understands the need for this to keep children safe on their bikes in preparation for secondary school.

**Action: Mr Neill to confirm bikeability this year.**

- vii. One parent asked how parents could identify the reps. Mrs Lonie asked all reps for permission to post a photo on the website and on display in school. All present gave permission.

**Action: All reps to email Mrs Lonie a photo for identification purposes.**

Thank you to all representatives for their time.

Next meeting: Friday 30<sup>th</sup> November at 9.15am.